MINUTES

THE NEWARK CONFERENCE

1 May 1980 at 332 Ferry Street, Newark, The Ferry Street Foundation

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Present: Baretski, Barr, Bridgeforth, Flagg, Gilbert, Gonzalez, Henry, Juresko, Lewis, Linn, Lynch, Meyers, Myers, Pirog, Smith, Smithberg, Vevier (presiding), West, Winters; Dale, Dowd, Henry, Holtz, Jacobs, Miller, Peterson (for Ferry Street Foundation)

The evening opened at 5 p.m. with a social mixer, courtesy of the members of the Ferry Street Foundation (residents at the Ferry Street House, a building renovated by students and faculty members from the architecture and engineering faculties at the New Jersey Institute of Technology). After a half hour of good cheer, Charles Vevier (CMDNJ) opened the meeting by recalling the substance of previous meetings of the group and reading the Statement of Intentions which had previously been sent to members.

Vevier stated that the group, to be called "The Newark Conference," should proceed with definite aims and the will to achieve greater communication among those with professional and civic interests in Newark and its academic and intellectual communities and to sponsor selected events to exchange knowledge and rally participants toward further efforts.

He then introduced Stanley Winters (NJIT), Mamie Bridgeforth (ECC) and Kara Smith (ECC) who had formed part of the original group that got the Newark Conference going, both in 1977 when the "Conference on An Assessment of Newark" was held, and now, with this offshoot. Each spoke briefly on the need for a continuing effort to stay together and work together for mutual, institutional, and civic betterment.

Vevier then said that the moment of truth had arrived. There was a need for new leadership to take the helm. "We've given things a push," he said, and "now we want to step back a bit. We'll be there to help and pitch in, but we need fresh ideas and energies. Others should have a chance to get in the act." He called for nominations for president, secretary/treasurer, and vice president. He asked whether Eugene Smithberg (NJIT) would accept as president, and Smithberg accepted the nomination, which was unanimously approved.

Vevier then asked for vice presidential nominations, and Joy Meyers, recently of Essex County government, agreed and was unanimously elected. Vevier then separated the secretary/treasurer's post into two. Bob Lynch (NJIT) agreed to serve as secretary and E. Alma Flagg (Newark Board of Ed.) as treasurer. Both were unanimously elected.

Karl Linn (NJSOA-NJIT) suggested that the group incorporate as a not-for-profit organization to facilitate its application for and receipt of funds to conduct activities in the future. The idea was endorsed by Cole Lewis (Prudential and New Jersey Committee on the Humanities) who said he would help in the incorporation but that a set of By-Laws should be adopted by the officers first. It was thereupon moved and seconded: "That the officers

of the Newark Conference be empowered to adopt Basic By-Laws and to Incorporate the Newark Conference as a non-profit corporation." The motion carried unanimously.

Marie Gonzalez (Newark Human Rights Comm.) offered to have any press releases and other materials translated for us into Spanish and Portuguese.

After further expressions of good-will, all present and voting agreed to serve as at-Large members of the Newark Conference and to be available for meetings and to help as needed.

The proceedings ended at 6:45 p.m.

Robert E. Lynch
Secretary

Elected Officers of the Newark Conference:

Eugene Smithberg, New Jersey Institute of Technology
323 High Street 07102 (645-5164) — PRESIDENT

Joy Meyers, 16 West McClellan Avenue
Livingston, New Jersey 07039 (992-7946) — VICE PRESIDENT

Robert E. Lynch, New Jersey Institute of Technology
323 High Street 07102 (645-5217) — SECRETARY

E. Alma Flagg, Newark Board of Education, Dept. of Curriculum
2 Cedar Street, Newark 07102 (733-7173) — TREASURER

All others present and voting are Members at-Large of the executive group.

MARCH 31, 1981

TO: NEWARK CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND PROGRAM STEERING COMMITTEE

FROM: R. LYNCH, SECRETARY

SUBJECT: SPECIAL MEETING

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This will confirm my recent telephone calls regarding a special meeting of the NEWARK CONFERENCE. Mr. Vincent Marzullo, Director of Essex County's Employment Training Division will be meeting with our group to explore the funding of our May 15 conference and the possibility of joint sponsorship. He would like to meet as many of our people who can make it.

We will meet on Friday, April 3, at 3 p.m. in the Finance Conference Room, 2nd floor, Cullimore Hall, NJIT campus. Cullimore Hall is the building on Bleeker Street beside the visitor's parking area.

Robert E. Lynch,
Secretary

THE NEWARK CONFERENCE

Minutes of Program Steering Committee, March 27, 1981, 3 - 4:30 p.m.

Present: Gene Smithberg, Stan Winters, Bob Fryer, Joy Meyers, Mamie Bridgeforth, Bob Lynch

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Gene Smithberg opened the meeting by announcing that Isadore Candeub has been ill and will soon be hospitalized. The members expressed their concern. Stan Winters has taken over [illegible] the Program Committee's chairmanship in the interim.

There has been some delay in the guaranteeing of funding through the Greater Newark Chamber of Commerce. John Maddox of Public Service and Newark Renaissance will have brochures for the conference prepared (photo-ready) so long as program material is sent to him by next Wednesday.

Mamie Bridgeforth reported that all the rooms at Essex have been reserved for the event and that the sandwich lunch will cost $3.50 or $4.50 per person, depending on the type of sandwiches. Joy Meyers noted that lunch is a major expense, but the consensus was to supply, rather than have participants purchase, lunch.

Bob Fryer brought up the possibility of showing Gordon Bishop's film about Newark, but Stan Winters indicated that it was probably too long to be shown during our program. Stan reviewed the list we have been considering as speakers, including Robert Van Fossen, Franklin Thomas, Leonard Coleman.

Gene Smithberg indicated that the program details would have to be firm by the middle of next week to allow Mr. Maddox to begin preparing the brochures.

R. Lynch

Robert E. Lynch,
Secretary

THE NEWARK CONFERENCE

Minutes of Executive Board Meeting, March 6, 1981

Present: Gene Smithberg, Stan Winters, Bob Lynch, Mamie Bridgeforth, Ed Andrade, Marcial Robiou

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Gene Smithberg opened the meeting at 3:45 p.m. with the announcement that our application to the New Jersey Committee For the Humanities for funding our May 15 conference had been denied consideration by the Assistant Director, Paul Stellhorn. Mr. Stellhorn's letter indicated that the proposal did not seem clearly humanistic nor were specific humanist scholars identified as participating. The letter indicated a willingness to consider a revised proposal, but that would necessarily mean a postponement of the conference to the fall.

The members of our Board were in agreement that we should proceed as planned with the May conference and seek alternate funding rather than postpone. Mr. Robiou indicated that the Greater Newark Chamber of Commerce could be relied on for a certain share of the costs; Mr. Andrade thought that matching funds could be sought from a variety of sources. Gene Smithberg estimated that $4000 would be the minimum required to run the conference, not including those services offered by the participating institutions.

Discussion then turned to the program of the conference. The morning plenary session, which should begin at 9 a.m., should consist of a welcome, an introduction of the principal speaker, his/her address, a brief question/answer period, ending with four brief (15 min. max.) presentations summarizing the topics of the afternoon workshops (i.e., business and commerce in Newark, the role of neighborhood groups, the urban enterprise concept, the role of the academic community). The morning session should end about 11:45 a.m.

The audience would then divide itself into workshops, with lunch being "served" at each workshop. We should try to find a "name" to draw the audience back together for the afternoon plenary session. The main speakers for the afternoon session would be Rebecca Andrade and a high level representative of the Newark business community, perhaps Robert Van Fossen. The conference should end about 2 p.m.

Gene Smithberg suggested that the new Urban Coalition President, Leonard Coleman, be invited to participate in the program, perhaps to introduce one of the speakers at a plenary session or to moderate a workshop.

In general, the executive board was enthusiastic about the prospects for a successful conference and felt that the momentum had begun moving toward an interesting, wide-ranging program.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

R. Lynch,
Secretary

new jersey committee for the humanities

February 24, 1981

Dr. Eugene H. Smithberg
New Jersey Institute of Technology
323 High Street
Newark, New Jersey 07102

Dear Dr. Smithberg:

We are in receipt of the Newark Conference Group's proposal, "Newark in the 80's". There are two reasons why we feel that we cannot consider the proposal for the February 1 grant period. The first problem is general in nature: we are not convinced after reading the proposal that your project will result in a humanities program. While it is certain that current public policy issues will be addressed, there is no indication that they will be discussed from a humanities perspective. Secondly and more specifically, as presented on page 12 of the NJCH Guidelines, we require that all humanist scholars and other participants must be identified in the proposal along with the specific topics that they will discuss. The Committee cannot consider projects that have not worked out these details for the proposal. As I note that you have a conference date set for May 15, I cannot see how we could consider a revised proposal in time for your proposed date. (Although we have an April 1 deadline, the Committee will not meet until late May. We further require that funded projects not be carried out until at least two months after an award is made. In this way we are assured of a proper promotion campaign.) If, however, the proposed conference date is not finalized, and you feel that a strong humanities base could be illustrated, we will be glad to consider the proposal for the April 1 deadline.

I would say in closing that we generally like to have staff involvement in the proposal writing stage prior to the submission of a formal application. In this way we can signal problems such as the type your proposal raises. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Stellhorn
Assistant Director

PAS/cw
Enclosures - Guidelines

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